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## "CUBANS TO HONOR KENNEDY"

The title of this editorial is copied from the banner headline over our Final edition yesterday. The story related that President Kennedy is to be honored today by the Cuban prisoners recently released. He is to review their brigade and to receive from them, as a mark of their gratitude, the flag they carried into the unfortunate engagement at the Bay of Pigs.

There has been the usual crop of preposterous events in 1962 but we submit this is the prize item.

Of course you can't blame the freed Cubans for feeling grateful to someone. They spent many long months of semi-starvation in Castro's miserable jails and now are at liberty in the United States. American money ransomed them. Mr. Kennedy has become the symbol to them of their liberation.

Mr. Kennedy is not the symbol but the very man who got them into trouble in the first place. He gave the go-ahead for their descent on the Bay of Pigs and then, at the last minute, withheld the air cover that they needed to secure their beachhead.

What President Kennedy may have done or may not have done to arrange the ransom is in dispute. Mr. Donovan, who unquestionably was the negotiator who closed the deal with Castro, says the president's brother, Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy, had almost nothing to do with it. Inquiry is begun the better.

On the other hand there have been circumstantial accounts of the tax interpretations that were put forward by the internal revenue bureau and the attorney general with a view to persuading drug manufacturers and others to come across. Mr. Donovan could hardly have made these commitments without going to one Kennedy or another, and probably both. Did the Kennedys promise to stop feuding with the drug industry? Did they pledge to muzzle Sen. Kefauver?

There is no need and no justification for secrecy in these matters. Congress should get the facts. While they are about it the investigating committee might also look into the allegation by one of the Cubans that all the missile sites have not been dismantled. The statement was made to our correspondent in Miami, Jules Dubois, together with a good deal of circumstantial detail.

The Dubois interview raises once again the question whether Castro's refusal to permit inspection of the missile sites from the ground constitutes a menace to American safety. The Russians agreed to a thoroughgoing verification on the spot but Castro has refused to cooperate.

Congress has the means to confirm these charges or disprove them. The sooner the inquiry is begun the better.

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